

1. (currently amended) An airborne contaminant indicating device adapted for attachment to a person's nose for indicating the presence of a microbial contaminant entrained in an air stream passing through the nose, said airborne contaminant indicating device comprising a member dimensioned to fit snugly within a nose without substantially obstructing the flow of air through the nose, said member having a surface that is in contact with air passing through the nose, said surface being operable for immobilizing an airborne pathogenic organism, ~~coated with a layer of material that interacts with a contaminant in the air such that the interaction may be used to selectively indicate the presence of a contaminant in the air.~~

2. (currently amended) An airborne contaminant indicating device adapted for attachment to a person's nose for indicating the presence of a microbial contaminant entrained in an air stream passing through the nasal passage of the nose, said airborne contaminant indicating device comprising:

- (a) a dilating portion comprising two substantially U-shaped strips of an elastically deformable biocompatible material, said substantially U-shaped strips lying substantially in a first plane and being mirror images of one another and having a substantially uniform width and a smooth outer, tissue-contacting surface and an inner air-contacting surface in opposition thereto; and
- (b) an extension portion integral with said dilating portion comprising two straight strips of said elastically deformable biocompatible material having a length and said substantially uniform width, each of said two straight strips having a proximal end integral with one of the two U-shaped strips, a distal end, and an outer septum-contacting surface which is coplanar with at least a portion of said

tissue-contacting surface of said U-shaped strip integral therewith;
and

- (c) a septum attachment portion comprising a substantially arcuate strip of said elastically deformable material having said substantially uniform width, said substantially arcuate strip having two parallel straight edges, each straight edge being integral with a distal end of one of said straight strips comprising the extension portion wherein said two straight strips and said arcuate strip lie in a second plane which is orthogonal to said first plane; and
- (d) a contaminant interactive coating on said outer surface of said dilating portion, said outer surface operable for immobilizing an airborne pathogenic organism. ~~said contaminant interactive coating being operable for interacting with airborne contaminants in contact therewith, the interaction providing a qualitative or quantitative indication of the presence of said contaminant in air passing thereover.~~

3. (canceled) A kit for use with a airborne contaminant indicating device in accordance with claim 1 comprising visualization means operable for indicating exposure of said contaminant interactive coating to an airborne contaminant.

4. (canceled) A kit for use with a airborne contaminant indicating device in accordance with claim 2 comprising visualization means operable for indicating exposure of said contaminant interactive coating to an airborne contaminant.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 USC§102 as being anticipated by Karow '404.

Claims 3-4 were rejected under 35USC§112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Summary of the Invention

An airborne contaminant indicating device adapted for attachment to a person's nose for indicating the presence of a microbial contaminant entrained in an air stream passing through the nose. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the device is a clip with a proximal "UU" shaped dilating portion adapted to be inserted within the nostrils; the "U's" being connected to one another medially by an elastically deformable extension portion, the extension portion being two straight parallel strips, one end of the strips being integral with the dilating portion and the opposing end of the strip integral with an arcuate septum attachment portion. The septum attachment portion spaces the distal ends of the strips of the extension portion so that the strips straddle and gently squeeze the nasal septum. The device has a contaminant-interactive coated surface in contact with a portion of the air passing through the nose. The design of the embodiment provides maximum air flow through the nostrils. The proximal, dilating portion of the device consists of two "U" shaped strips, each strip being affixed to a proximal open end of the "U" shaped extension portion and at right angles to the plane of the extension portion. The dilating portion

presents a smooth outer tissue-contacting surface which urges the inner surface of the walls of the nostrils forcing them outwardly. A portion of the surface in opposition to the tissue-contacting surface includes a microbial contaminant interactive coating that is adapted to immobilize one or more contaminants in the air. The device may be further processed in order to identify the specific microbes immobilized thereon.